

SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • June 2005

George E. Pataki
Governor

Randy A. Daniels
Secretary of State

James A. Burns
State Fire Administrator

Welcome to e-SIREN

Like the Phoenix, SIREN keeps rising, With this issue SIREN will be a totally electronic publication

It is unfortunate that we open this issue with two memoriam. Barb Goldstein may not have been known to all in the fire service. Her work in the background keeping OFPC on track and in line will be missed. Don Loeb was nearly a legend in the fire service. Whether through his dynamic writings or his extraordinary pictures, he has touched all of us in some way. He, too, will be missed.

In future issues we will be introducing each of the bureaus within OFPC. You may be familiar with some of the bureaus and their structure. However, with changes in personnel and missions, we will be focusing on one or two bureaus with each issue to keep you informed of where to turn for assistance within OFPC.

Our target is to deliver the SIREN the first week of each month. Our goal is to keep all of you informed in a most timely fashion. There will be articles on training, hazmat, fire investigation, fire prevention, fire safety, and general safety, to name a few. If it is interesting or beneficial to the fire service and firefighters, we will deliver it to you. We will keep you updated on what is happening in the nation. As new courses are brought on-line – you will hear it first – here.

Our initial posting will be to existing e-mail lists. The process to have firefighters subscribe by sending in your e-mail address is under way. Stay tuned for details.

We are also looking for contributing writers. If it interests you – it interests us. We are accepting articles on any subject relevant to the fire service. If you have any “lessons learned” you want to share, whether it is from a drill or an emergency response – write it up and send it in. Do you have any instructional techniques or advice for instructors on presenting training – write it up and send it in. Do you have any safety tips -- write it up and send it in. What works for recruitment and retention – write it up and send it in. If you have announcements of upcoming training, drills or exercises – write it up and send it in.

This is it, people! Your chance at 15 minutes of fame! Be an author.....!

If you have any ideas, tips, suggestions, or comments on what you want to see in SIREN, write it up and send it in. This will be your publication. It will be what YOU want it to be....so let's make it good!

See you next month...train often, train hard, and above all - stay safe...

Submitted by: The SIREN Crew

Bureau Changes and Updates

WELCOME TO THE FIRE SERVICES BUREAU

The Fire Service Bureau is one of six organizational bureaus within the Office of Fire Prevention and Control with staff assigned to both the main office in Albany and field positions around the state. The mission of the Fire Services Bureau is "To support Department of State/Office of Fire Prevention and Control operations by delivering firefighter training, technical assistance and emergency operations service to state, county and local government agencies and the private sector."

These activities are focused in seven major program areas:

- Delivery of **outreach training** courses with state fire instructors, municipal training officers, county fire instructors and industrial instructors.
- Providing **technical assistance** to state agencies and local governments on fire related issues.
- Providing technical assistance for **Wireless 911** services to include training, standards and technology consultations.
- **Respond to emergencies** at the request of the local fire jurisdiction or upon activation of the New York State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan or an Article 2B declaration by the governor.

- Operate **standards** section as required by Executive Law 159d, NYCRR Title 9, Part 426 and 427, evaluate training credentials and issue NYS certifications and deliver Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT).

- Provide support, staff and resources to other OFPC bureaus to assist in completion of their operations and programs.

To accomplish these functions the bureau is authorized 18 full-time Fire Protection Specialist (FPS) and approximately 240 part time State Fire Instructors (SFI). Fire Protection Specialist are assigned to specific functions such as the Wireless 911 program and to perform other duties dealing with all operations of the bureau. The State Fire Instructors are assigned a geographic area (usually their home county) to deliver training and education programs in the Outreach Training Curriculum.

Future articles will detail the specific Bureau operations such as the Outreach Training, Wireless 911 and Standards & Certification. If you have any question or need specific information please feel free to contact any of the Bureau staff at the e-mail address listed below.

Submitted by: Chief Tom Wutz

NAME	ASSIGNED COUNTIES	E-MAIL ADDRESS
FPS Jesse Babcock	Genesee, Monroe, Orleans, Niagara and Wayne	jbabcock@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Brain Benstead	Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming	bbenstea@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Shawn Brimhall	Cortland, Onondaga, Tioga, Tompkins	sbrimhal@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Al Deming**	Cayuga & Seneca	ademing@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Greg Gould	Albany & USAR	ggould@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Scott Epps	Franklin, Herkimer, Madison, St. Lawrence	sepps@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Les Greenwood	Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester	lgreenwo@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Cheryl Hine**	Chemung, Schuyler	chine@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Mackenzie Jewell	Fulton & Montgomery	mjewell@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Mike Lee	Broome, Chenango, Schoharie	mlee@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Mike Miles	Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, Otsego	mmiles@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Nick Perrotta	Hamilton, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren	nperrott@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Bill Rifenburgh	Clinton, Essex, Rensselaer, Washington	wrifenu@dos.state.ny.us
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FPS Jim Santee**	Ontario, Yates	jsantee@dos.state.ny.us
FPS Ed Torns**	Livingston, Steuben	etorns@dos.state.ny.us
Deputy Chief Andrew Dickinson	Nassau, Suffolk	adickins@dos.state.ny.us
Deputy Chief Don Fischer	New York City	dfischer@dos.state.ny.us
Deputy Chief Erwin LaTourette	Statewide	elatourette@dos.state.ny.us
Chief Thomas Wutz	Statewide	twutz@dos.state.ny.us

** Fire Academy Bureau Staff assigned to assist with county functions

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Fire Departments Urged To Stand Down For Firefighter Safety

Fairfax, Va., May 24, 2005... The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), James Burns, State Fire Administrator of the **New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control** and 13 partnering fire service organizations are calling for all fire departments in the nation to conduct a "stand down" for firefighter safety beginning Tuesday, June 21. As of May 1, there have been 50 line-of-duty firefighter deaths – that is 10 more than at this same time last year.

A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks. The IAFC, **New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control** and their partners* are urging fire departments to suspend all non-emergency activity on June 21 and instead focus entirely on firefighter safety.

"Fire fighters are being killed at an alarming rate. The fire service simply cannot continue to do business as usual when so many of its own are dying," said IAFC President Chief Bob DiPoli. "We are conducting the stand down to raise awareness of the need for increased vigilance toward fire fighter safety."

The IAFC and its partners are urging you and all fire departments throughout the country to suspend all non-emergency activity and focus entirely on firefighter safety. If you are a career or combination department, please stand down beginning Tuesday, June 21 until all personnel and duty nights have been covered. If you are a volunteer department, please conduct a special safety meeting the evening of June 21 or as near to that date as possible.

Use the recommended "daily activity schedule" below. Take the 21st to talk about the causes of line-of-duty deaths; check all apparatus and equipment; discuss health and safety regulations; review fire ground safety issues; and take stock of training exercises and fitness

goals. An entire Web page at the IAFC Web site www.iafc.org/standdown has been devoted to important issue. Go to that site and use those resources to plan your activities for the stand down.

"We must call attention to the unacceptable number of line-of-duty deaths and injuries plaguing our fire departments," said DiPoli continued. "During the Safety Stand Down, fire departments all around the nation will have thorough, honest conversations about firefighter health and safety and maybe we do something to stop these deaths."

After your department has stood down, please email the IAFC with a summary of the activities you conducted and your comments at standdown@iafc.org. If you have questions, please call the IAFC at 703/273-0911.

Partnering Organizations

International Association of Fire Chiefs
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
United States Fire Administration
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Volunteer Fire Council
National Fire Protection Association
International City/County Management Association
National Association of State Fire Marshals
North American Fire Training Directors
Canadian Fire Chiefs Association
Congressional Fire Service Institute
International Association of Arson Investigators
Fire & Emergency Manufacturers Services Association
International Fire Service Training Association
Fire Department Safety Officers' Association
New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control



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National Firefighter Safety Stand Down

June 21, 2005

Recommended Activity Schedule

Prior to June 21:

Department wide email/notification to the department

- For career fire departments, this should be a joint labor/management initiative, so the announcement should be jointly from chief and union president. For combination departments, the fire chief, volunteer leadership, and union president should make a joint announcement.
- Send out a reminder to the department a few days before the event.

June 21 (and continue until all subsequent duty days/shifts have been covered):

Department wide radio announcement (see attached sample)

Station Line-up

- Moment of silence for LODDs
- Review of shift activities and explanation of purpose
- Review LODD causes
 - Utilize NIOSH reports and recommendations
- Entire shift focus on safety and what can be done to improve fire department safety and individual safety
- All other activities (public ed, inspections, etc.) postponed

Health and Safety Standards

- Address federal (as well as state/provincial) health and safety regulations and NFPA standards (1500, 1710, 1581, etc.), especially in areas where fire department is in violation or perceived violation

Fire Ground Safety

- Review current fire department staffing
 - Compare fire department staffing to national standards (including NFPA 1710, 1720)
- Review fire department accountability
 - SOPs, RITs and equipment (locators, PASS, etc.)
 - Incident management SOPs and risk management issues
- Review fire department Standard Operating Procedures
 - Review individual knowledge of SOPs
 - Review adherence to SOPs
 - Suggest needed revisions to current SOPs
- Review communication issues
 - Review individual knowledge of communication equipment and procedures
 - Review adequacy of current communication system as well as individual units

Personal Protective Equipment

- Review fire department personal protective equipment
 - Check all PPE, including bunker gear and SCBA, for obvious defects, cleaning and maintenance needs. PPE review should be in accordance with NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protective Ensembles*. Tag all equipment with defects and remove from service.
 - Discuss fire department specification for current gear and suggest revisions
 - Address respirator standards, including training, selection, use, fit testing, etc. (as required by OSHA 1910.134)
 - Emphasize use of safety glasses and hearing protection

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Apparatus and Equipment Check

- Check all fire apparatus and equipment stowed on fire apparatus. Tag all equipment with defects and remove from service.
 - . Address MANDATORY seat belt use (no exceptions)
 - . Allow extra time for mechanical checks
 - . Review defect reports

Infectious Disease Safety

- Review department SOPs and protocols
 - . Address proper PPE
 - . Address proper hand washing and other universal protocols
 - . Address vaccine programs

Physical Fitness

- Review the IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative. Has the fire department adopted fully, at all, in part. This is the number one recommendation of NIOSH after any firefighter LODD from heart event.
- Review fire department hiring procedures. Does the fire department use CPAT for candidate physical ability requirements and does fire department use NFPA 1582 for candidate medical requirements?
- Ensure all personnel engage in some form of approved exercise for a minimum of 30 minutes. May be as simple as basic stretching and a one mile walk around a nearby fitness track or marked path.
- Address Peer Fitness Trainers and generate interest in getting fire department to certify members as IAFF/IAFC PFTs

Training

- Review minimum training requirements (fire ground, driving, etc.)
- Address recruit training, both a training center and in company during probation
- Address company training needs
- Address company critiques after emergency events (all regardless of emergency)
- Address company officer, especially front line officer, training
- Address specialized training. Does fire department have minimum HazMat, WMD training?
- Address wellness fitness training (recruit and company level)

Behavioral Health

- Review and address fire department EAPs, CISM, and other related programs
- Address attitudes relating to safety
- Positive and negative
 - . Includes aggression, judgment, ability to execute assigned tasks safely, age/experience/physical conditioning
- Drill periods—if time permits, then actual safety drills would be an excellent way to review emergency operations
- Conduct drills that review safety practices and principles for targeted areas
 - . Safe driving – include a practical component (e.g., road trip)
 - . Fire ground operations
 - . Training
 - . Non-fire emergencies
 - . In-station activities
- Practical skills drills should include an enhanced safety component.
- Go to any of the Safety Stand Down Web site at www.iafc.org/standdown to select a drill topic



Shift/Group Meal

- Prepare healthy meal selected from recipes and share as a team. Visit the IAFF's Food Fit Web site, www.foodfit.com/iaff for sample recipes.

End Activities

- Recap day's emphasis
- Second moment of silence for LODDs
- Relax

Sample Radio Announcement

"The (Department Name) is participating in the National Firefighter Safety Stand Down today. All personnel are to observe a moment of silence for our fire service brothers and sisters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. All department activities for the remainder of the shift are to follow the guidelines issued by the fire chief with the full support of the IAFF local president/volunteer leadership/volunteer chiefs."

Fire Training Records

FIRE TRAINING RECORDS NOW ACCESSIBLE ON CD

Gone are the cumbersome reams of paper historically used to download fire training records currently maintained by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC). Training records are now accessible on a read-only CD which contains a downloaded version of the fire training records current to the date of downloading. Without the need for any special software, the CD allows a record search using several different fields or a combination of fields to produce listings of individual or fire department training records. Since a record shows only the last four digits of a social security number, personal privacy is protected.

Over the past six months, averages of 4,500 training entries were made each month. The latest CD was downloaded on May 24, 2005 and was provided to County Fire Coordinators and State Fire Instructors. Typically training is reported within 45 days of training completion. Therefore, the records on this latest CD should be current to April 1, 2005.

To obtain a copy of a training record, individuals or Fire Chiefs may contact their Fire County

Coordinator, the OFPC County Fire Protection Specialist assigned to their county, or a request can be faxed to the Albany office at 518-474-3240 to the attention of Pearl Perrier. The faxed request should contain the last four digits of the individual's social security number, the fire department identification number (FDID), the county, and the name, title and signature of the requestor along with a day time contact phone number or e-mail address. Requests will be honored from Fire Department Chiefs for only current or incoming members of their fire department or individuals for only their own training record.

If a training record is incomplete or inaccurate, notification can be made directly to the Albany Office at the above fax. A request to add training that does not appear on a record must be substantiated with a copy of a completion certificate. Fire Chiefs can and should report the name of members who are inactive or deceased via this same method.

This portable CD should prove very beneficial for verifying course prerequisites, for checking training records of individuals, and for providing OFPC with training record updates.

Submitted by: Kathy O'Connor

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In Memory

BARBARA GOLDSTEIN

1947 - 2005

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of our co-worker and friend, Barbara Goldstein who passed away after a brief battle with cancer on April 10, 2005.

As Secretary II, Barbara worked directly for State Fire Administrator James Burns and Deputy State Fire Administrator Daniel Caffrey. She came to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control in May of 1992, and had prior state service with NYS Higher Education Services and NYS Department of Corrections.

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1947, Barbara was raised along with 3 brothers, John, Joseph and Ed and a sister Dolores. Barbara later married and raised 3 children of her own, Scott, Alex and Tara who in turn rewarded her with six wonderful grandchildren who she so proudly and lovingly spoke of anytime she had the opportunity to.

Her dedication and untiring efforts in support of this office were well recognized. In addition to serving as secretary to the Emergency Services Loan Board, Barbara's involvement with other Fire Service Organizations and activities made her highly visible. Her presence and her laughter will be missed.

Barbara's upbeat attitude was always evident. Even over the past few months, as she began this new battle in her life, she remained positive in her thinking and in her actions. It was a true testament to her character and an inspiration for us all.

Our thoughts of Barbara will be happy ones and of better times. We will miss her skill, her energy, her honesty and her thoughtfulness to others. Thank you Barbara for all you did and who you were.

Contributions in Barbara's name can be made to the Karen McGovern Memorial Fund in care of Mahar Funeral Home, 43 Main Street, Hoosick Falls, NY

We miss you.

Submitted by: Sandy Maxon & Carol Purzycki

DON LOEB

1925 - 2005

The Fire Service in New York State, and across this nation, is saddened to learn of the death of Chief Donald Loeb (retired), who wrote hundreds of articles for many magazines during the last 30 years. His photographs have been used nation-wide for training.

"Chief Don Loeb was an integral part of FIRE CHIEF magazine and a prolific writer," said Janet Wilmoth, editor of FIRE CHIEF. "His articles were basic and common sense firefighting. Don's experience with live fire incidents was unique and his straightforward writing and his photos, made him a popular author.

"As Contributing Editor, Don Loeb, had his own way of keeping FIRE CHIEF focused on the basics of firefighting. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family."

Don published at least one book and many short stories, some published in Reader's Digest.

In the Navy in WWII, he was a gunner's mate, assigned to merchant ships in both the Atlantic & Pacific theaters. He was in the English Channel on D-day. On Guam, he was assigned to the USMC as a firefighter

Upon his return he became a volunteer firefighter in Dunkirk, N.Y., and was appointed second assistant chief in 1956, then first assistant chief and later fire chief, each for two-year terms.

Loeb worked in an industrial fire brigade at Pratt Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, Conn., and then for the New York State Fire Insurance Rating Organization. Later he returned to Dunkirk to serve as chief. It was during this period that Loeb began writing articles for Volunteer Firefighter, the predecessor of FIRE CHIEF. Loeb was a state fire instructor for 14 years and taught at Jamestown Community College until retiring in 1999. Many fire departments have used his firefighting strategy and tactics articles as the bases for writing their SOP's.

He is survived by his wife, Sue, three sons: oldest son Carl is a priest; Stewart, a Lt. Eng 69 FDNY; and Allen, a Lt. on Rescue 1 Dunkirk FD.

Don was definitely the motivator and mentor to many firefighters from Dunkirk who went on to fire service careers throughout the country. It is difficult to walk into any fire station in North America that has not heard of Don Loeb.

Rest easy, Bro!

Submitted by: Phil Hanlon, OFPC Retired

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DHS Opens Application Period for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Services (SAFER) Grants

Release Date: May 27, 2005

Beginning May 31, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin accepting applications for SAFER grants. The deadline for receipt of the SAFER grant applications will be 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 28, 2005.

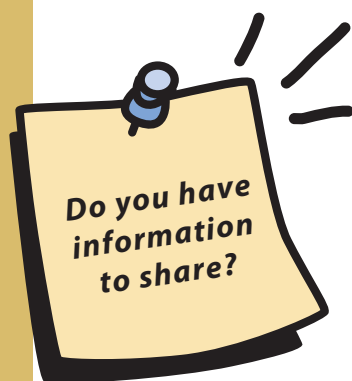
The applications will be automated and will be accessible from the Web site for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program at www.firegrantsupport.com. The Web site also provides useful information on the program priorities and process that are discussed in the SAFER Program Guidance. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is being added, and will be updated as the program staff learns the areas of inquiry that are most often presented. An applicant tutorial on the SAFER grant, designed to instruct users on the preparation and submittal of competitive applications, will also be available at www.firegrantsupport.com by Monday, May 30. Applicants who have questions regarding the SAFER grant opportunities should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. During the SAFER application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

Eligible applicants for SAFER grants include fire departments (for the hiring of firefighters) and state or local organizations as well as volunteer and combination fire departments (for volunteer recruitment and retention grants). Applicants will note that the SAFER application is very similar in appearance to the "fire grants" application, but all applicants are strongly encouraged to read the program guidance, and utilize all other materials at the AFG Web site.

The AFG is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2005, Congress provided \$65 million for the SAFER grants.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

Send Us an Article



Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged.

All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested.

Contact us by e-mail at fire@dos.state.ny.us subject: *SIREN*.

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